

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A text string data structure within a computer usable medium, comprising:

a multi-field text string object encapsulating a plurality of discrete fields;

a first field within the multi-field text string object containing a first character string representing a word; [[and]]

a second field within the multi-field text string object containing a second character string representing the word; and

a third field within the multi-field text string object containing a third character string representing the word; wherein

the first character string contains characters for a first human language; and

the third character string contains the first character string prefixed by at least one character with a low sort value.

2. (original) The text string data structure of claim 1, wherein the second character string is different from the first character string.

3. (original) The text string data structure of claim 1, wherein the first character string contains characters from a first character set employed by a first human language and the second character string contains characters from a second character set employed by a second human language.

4. (original) The text string data structure of claim 1, wherein the first character string contains characters for a first human language and the second character string contains characters for a second human language which sound-map to characters within the first character string.

5. (original) The text string data structure of claim 1, wherein the first character string contains an ideograph and the second character string contains a phonetic spelling of the ideograph.

6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) The text string data structure of claim [[6]] 1, wherein the third character string is different from the second character string.

8. (original) The text string data structure of claim 7, wherein the third character string is different from the first character string.

9. (currently amended) The text string data structure of claim [[6]] 1, wherein:  
the first character string contains characters for a first human language;  
the second character string contains characters for a second human language which sound-map to characters within the first character string; and  
the third character string is identical to the first character string.

10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) The text string data structure of claim [[6]] 1, wherein:  
the first character string contains an ideograph;  
the second character string contains Latin characters for a phonetic spelling of the ideograph;  
and  
the third character string contains syllabary characters for a phonetic spelling of the ideograph.

12. (currently amended) A method of encapsulating information in a text string data structure, comprising:  
creating a multi-field text string object encapsulating a plurality of discrete fields;  
storing a first character string representing a word in a first field within the multi-field text string object; [[and]]  
storing a second character string representing the word in a second field within the multi-field text string object;

storing a third character string representing the word in a third field within the multi-field text string object; and

storing the first character string prefixed by at least one character with a low sort value as the third character string.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of storing a second character string representing the word in a second field within the multi-field text string object further comprises:

if the first character string contains characters from a first character set employed by a first human language, storing characters from a second character set employed by a second human language in the second field, wherein the second character string is different from the first character string.

14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) The method of claim [[14]] 12, further comprising:

storing characters from a first human language as the first character string;

storing characters from a second human language which sound-map to characters within the first character string as the second character string; and

storing characters identical to the first character string as the third character string.

16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) The method of claim [[14]] 12, further comprising:

storing an ideograph as the first character string;

storing a Latin character phonetic spelling of the ideograph as the second character string; and

storing syllabary characters for a phonetic spelling of the ideograph as the third character string.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim [[14]] 12, further comprising:

storing identical characters as the first, second, and third character strings.

19. (currently amended) A system for encapsulating information in a text string data structure, comprising:

means for creating a multi-field text string object encapsulating a plurality of discrete fields;

means for storing a first character string representing a word in a first field within the multi-field text string object; [[and]]

means for storing a second character string representing the word in a second field within the multi-field text string object;

means for storing a third character string representing the word in a third field within the multi-field text string object]; and

means for storing the first character string prefixed by at least one character with a low sort value as the third character string.

20. (previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the means for storing a second character string representing the word in a second field within the multi-field text string object further comprises:

means, if the first character string contains characters from a first character set employed by a first human language, for storing characters from a second character set employed by a second human language in the second field, wherein the second character string is different from the first character string.

21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) The system of claim [[21]] 19, further comprising:

means for storing characters from a first human language as the first character string;

means for storing characters from a second human language which sound-map to characters within the first character string as the second character string; and

means for storing characters identical to the first character string as the third character string.

23. (cancelled)

24. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~[[21]]~~ 19, further comprising:  
means for storing an ideograph as the first character string;  
means for storing a Latin character phonetic spelling of the ideograph as the second character string; and  
means for storing syllabary characters for a phonetic spelling of the ideograph as the third character string.

25. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~[[21]]~~ 19, further comprising:  
means for storing identical characters as the first, second, and third character strings.